United Nations

Daily Highlights

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FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

◆ Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Yugoslavia, Cyrus Vance, to return to that country tomorrow for talks on deployment of a possible United Nations peace-keeping operation; will report to the Secretary-General within one week.

◆ Security Council unanimously renews the mandate of United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF).

◆ Head of the United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia, Ataul Karim, to represent the Organization at a meeting of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia in Bangkok on 3 December.

◆ In a message on the Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people, Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar reminds international community of enduring commitment of the United Nations to the attainment of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian People; President of the General Assembly also sends message.

◆ Secretary-General granted the Grand Croix of the Légion d'Honneur in Paris by President François Mitterrand; leaves Paris for Portugal before return to New York over the weekend.

◆ Political and Security Committee concludes work for current session with its Chairman noting it had unequivocally opted for reconciliation, compromise and concerted action.

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Cyrus Vance, the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy on Yugoslavia, accompanied by Under Secretary-General Marrack Goulding and a team of United Nations officials, leave New York for Yugoslavia on Saturday, 30 November, to continue discussions with the principal parties to the conflict regarding the deployment of a possible United Nations peace-keeping operation in that country.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

A United Nations Spokeswoman said today that during the scheduled talks the parties would consider "the shape, size, and deployment of the mission " in the context of the mandate given to the mission by Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar and endorsed by the Security Council in resolution 721, which was adopted on 27 November 1991. That resolution had also urged the parties to comply with the cease-fire accord signed in Geneva on 23 November during which Mr. Vance stressed that no peace-keeping operation could be envisaged without a lasting ceasefire.

Mr. Vance is expected to return to New York within one week to report to the Secretary-General, who in turn would report to the Security Council.

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The Security Council this morning unanimously decided to renew the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) for another period of six months, ending 31 May 1992. The Council also called on the parties concerned -- Israel and Syria, to implement immediately Security Council resolution 338, which calls for a cease-fire and agreement on disengagement between Israeli and Syrian forces. The Council also requested the Secretary-General to submit, at the end of this period of renewal, a report on the developments in the situation and the measures taken to implement resolution 338.

The President of the Council, Aurel Munteanu of Romania, quoted the Secretary-General's report to the Council on UNDOF, in which Mr Pérez de Cuéllar had noted that despite the present quiet in the Israel-Syria sector, the situation in the Middle East as a whole continued to be potentially dangerous and was likely to remain so, unless and until a comprehensive settlement covering all aspects of the Middle East problem could be reached.

The United Nations Disengagement Observer Force was established in 1974.

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The Chief Liaison Officer and Head of the United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia Mr. A.H.S. Ataul Karim will be representing the United Nations at a meeting of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia (SNC), scheduled for Tuesday 3 December in Bangkok. A United Nations Spokeswoman said the meeting was suggested by Prince Sihanouk as a result of recent events in Cambodia which related to the issue of the implementation of the Paris agreement.

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In a message to the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (CEIRP), on the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar reminded the international community of the enduring commitment of the United Nations to the attainment of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and to a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement in the Middle East.

(more)

The Secretary-General also recalled that he had always maintained that no effort should be spared in the search for a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the issue that lies at its core: the yearning of the Palestinian people to exercise their legitimate political rights, including self-determination.

In his message read to the Committee by James Jonah, Assistant-Secretary-General for the Department of Special Political Affairs, the Secretary-General also emphasized that there had been few issues to which he had attached greater importance than the search for peace in the Middle East and the just resolution of the Question of Palestine. He further expressed hope that the momentum that has been generated by the Madrid talks would be sustained and that the lasting peace that had so long been denied to all the peoples of the Middle East would become a reality.

In his statement to the Committee on the same occasion, the President of the General Assembly, Samir S. Shihabi of Saudi Arabia, said that it was incumbent upon all of us, and in particular for the United Nations, to keep the search for a political solution of the Question of Palestine high on the international agenda. Now more than ever before, he said, it was imperative for the United Nations to play a central role in this process.

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The Spokesman of the Secretary-General said that Mr. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar was granted yesterday, 28 November in Paris, France's highest honour, the "Grand Croix" of the Légion d'Honneur by President François Mitterrand. The ceremony, which was attended by Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, was followed by a luncheon at the Elysée Palace.

Also yesterday, the Secretary-General, who is a member of the French Academy of Political and Moral Sciences, attended the installation of a new member of the Academy. He also met with the French Senate President and later attended a reception in his honour at the French Diplomatic Academy.

This morning, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar left Paris for Oporto, Portugal, on a private visit on his way back to New York, where he is expected over the weekend.

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The Assembly's Political and Security (First) Committee has concluded its work for this session, after considering all items on its agenda.
In concluding remarks, Committee Chairman Robert Mroziewicz of Poland, said the constructive approach taken by representatives had demonstrated prudence and the desire not to detract attention from vital problems of disarmament by interjecting new "non-pragmatic" issues. He said that by acknowledging the shifting realities of the 1990's, the Committee had "unequivocally opted for reconciliation, compromise and concerted action".

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The Chairman said the Committee had not merely reacted to the rapid changes in the field of disarmament, but had seized a critical opportunity in the post-cold-war period to map out the disarmament for the future. In doing so, he added, the Committee was widening its scope from the traditional nuclear issues to encompass matters such as proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, conventional armaments and regional disarmament. Representatives of regional groups also made closing statements.

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